



YOUTH'S DEPARTMENT

A LITTLE RHYME OF FOUR.

Busy all day long,
Cheerful of lasses,
Like the cricket's song
In the grasses;
Wakeful with the waking sun,
Working till each task is done,
Thinking earnest thoughts which none
May divine—
That's Cora.

Ruffles not a few,
Slipped feet a twinkle,
Eyes like stars of blue
Periwinkle;
Airs engaging, exquisite,
Tiny frowns and smiles that fit,
Arch, coquettish just a bit—
Fairy fine—
That's Flora.

Neat and sweet and nice
As all care can make her;
Prettily precise
Little Quaker;
Smooth brown hair and forehead pure,
Quiet step and look demure,
Toes turned out, you may be sure,
On the line—
That's Dora.

Brimmed with sweetness as
Clover-tops with honey,
(Scarce a blossom has
Looks so sunny!)
Brave and loyal, blithe and brown,
Laughing every trouble down,
Loving though the whole world frowns,
Sweetheart mine—
That's Nora!
—Margaret Johnson, in St. Nicholas.

KITES FOR THE BOYS.

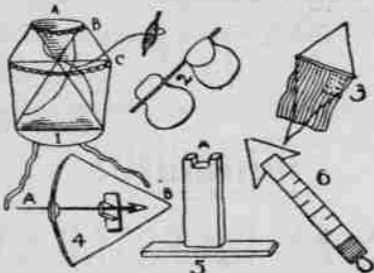
Curious and Attractive Designs
Which Any Ingenious Youngster
Can Make Without Trouble.

Although the pleasure of kite flying is undeniable, the boy who is satisfied to stand and hold a string for hours, making no variation in his amusement other than to occasionally let out extra twine and pull it in again, must have close connection with some kind of meditative owl.

Fig. 1 shows a kite which is an excellent flyer, and neither one extreme nor the other. Everything is not sacrificed for lightness, nor is it so fantastically made that a miniature cyclone is needed to raise it. A is a light wire bound in place with twine. It is, you will notice, bent slightly concave. The two longer sticks are each three feet in length, and the shorter is 2½ feet long. It is supposed that every boy knows how to notch each end of the sticks, and to carry the twine around the outside of the frame. Cover the frame with light Manila paper, lapping the edges ½ inch.

When pasting it down be particularly careful along the wire A.

Humming birds are made from bits of different colored paper pasted over a string, as shown in Fig. 2. There is a



DIAGRAMS FOR MAKING KITES.

string of these indicated at C and D (Fig. 1). They are attractive little additions, and unless the wind is very light will be easily raised by the kite. If found necessary, however, it is very little trouble to remove them. When the kite has been raised the papers keep up an incessant vibration, and honestly earn the name of humming birds.

I do not suppose there are any boys who do not know how to make a pinwheel, and will therefore take that amount of knowledge for granted. Five inches of wire are run through a cork and then through a pinwheel made of stiff paper. Lastly a smaller cork is added to keep the wheel in place. Bend over the ends of the wire, forming two loops. Make a break in the twine, and fasten an end to each loop in the wire.

Let the kite raise the wheel some 20 feet in the air, and it will spin gloriously.

Flag Decorations.—Fig. 3 shows the best way to suspend a flag from a kite string for Fourth of July or other holiday decorations. When arranged in this fashion it hangs horizontally to the wind, and shows to better advantage than it otherwise would. Cut the staff off close to the flag, and attach the strings as shown in the diagram.

PUZZLE FOR BRIGHT GIRLS AND BOYS.



Here is Herr Andree's balloon, but where is the Arctic explorer?

Be careful in selecting your twine. Before trusting perhaps a day's work to fragile string, take, at least, the precaution of going over it carefully and cutting out all weak spots. The proper way to handle the kite cord is to gather it on a stick. Boys who do not know how to do this are worthy of profound pity. I have met only one or two such.

The Bow and Arrow.—Among boys discussions often arise regarding the relative strength of different kites and winds. I have, therefore, thought it worth while to tell of a little device for testing kites. See Fig. 4. A glance at this should explain it. The string leading from the kite is attached at A. B is fastened to some stationary object. The tug of the kite bends the bow and draws the arrow over the stand. The arrow is marked by pounds, half pounds, etc., and the power of the kite or wind may thus be registered. Make this bow of some springy wood, such as hickory, ash or bamboo. A piece of barrel stave does very well.

The bow should be perhaps an inch across in the center, and from this point taper gradually toward the ends. For work with very small kites excellent testers may be made of whalebone. If the larger bows are properly made, there will be few kites which draw the arrow to the head. On each side of the bow a piece of wire must be securely bound, in the form of an arch. To one piece attach the kite string, to the other the arrow. Fig. 5 shows the stand. It is made of light boards, and may be easily put together. Have it perfectly smooth within the notch A, that the arrow may slip along easily. The arrow (Fig. 6) is rectangular in form and marked at intervals as shown. The head may be fastened in place with fish glue, and the loop of wire which connects it with the bow bound on with twine.

The method of marking the arrow: The twine from A, instead of being attached to a kite, is run through a pulley. To the end of this different weights are attached, and the distance which each draws the arrow along the stand marked.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

PIGEON'S DEVOTION.

Mother Bird Pecked Through a Wooden Wall to Feed and Reach Her Young One.

In the animal kingdom there are many strong examples of mother love, and the birds are particularly noted for displaying it. A remarkable instance of this maternal instinct was recently noticed near Elwood, Ind. A mother pigeon whose young one had mysteriously disappeared searched unceasingly for weeks for the little one, and one day last December was seen flying violently against the side of a frame building in the city.

Each time she came in contact with the house she clipped off a small bit of wood with her bill. For nearly two days the old bird kept this practice up, often during that time falling exhausted from the repeated shocks and fatigue. In the afternoon of the second day she had pecked a hole in the wall, the wood of which was old and soft from the weather. This hole was large enough to admit a man's hand, and through this the mother bird went and came.

Every time she entered she carried grain or seeds or grass. Some curious people investigated the hole while she was absent, and there they found the little lost pigeon, just below the hole, wedged in between the weather boards. For two days more the bird continued to bring the little one food, and would stay fluttering near the hole, chirruping and trying to cheer the little prisoner up. Many times it entered and seemed to be trying to extricate its young one, but it could not succeed in doing so, try as it would. The prisoner had flown into the building, which was empty, and managed to get between the weather boarding, near the top of the inside. Falling a considerable distance, it lodged in the narrow space, which did not permit it to use its wings in rising again. Its plaints had reached the mother, and she, not being able to reach it from the inside, had cut through from the out. An admiring man thrust his hand through the hole and brought out the fluttering young thing, much to the great delight of the anxious mamma bird.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

Cycle Racing Innovation. Some races in which the distance will be told off in kilometers are promised for the coming season. A kilometer is 62-100 of a mile, or 1,093-2-3 yards. Races of this kind will give some of the foreign riders a chance to travel their favorite distances in meeting American riders, and may do considerable toward making the metrical system popular.



TRAINING FOR RACES.

An Experienced Trainer Tells Ambitious Young Men How to Get Into Proper Condition.

As the time for active training for the road races is now at hand, many ambitious young riders may welcome a few brief hints on getting into condition for the events, as given out by an experienced trainer. The general rules of training, he says, prohibit the use of tobacco, coffee and alcoholic drinks. In the way of food the rider should have three square meals a day of rare beef, mutton, fowl, bread (which should be at least a day old), and plenty of vegetables, omitting potatoes, cabbage, corn, and all that are indigestible, and should drink cocoa or tea. Training should begin with a thorough physical; gymnastic exercise is good, but running should be avoided, as it develops a set of muscles that are not used in riding. After hard exercise a sponge or shower bath, with sea salt in the water, is in order. The bath should be cold, not ice cold, but under no conditions warm, and should occupy but a minute, being followed with a vigorous rubbing with a coarse towel until the skin is in a glow, after which the rider should have a good rub-down with liniment. The rub-down is a form of massage and is one of the most important items in training. The subject should not undertake to rub himself, and the rubbing should always be toward the heart to facilitate the flow of blood in the veins which lie near the surface of the body. If the air is even slightly chilly all parts of the body, except that being operated on, should be covered with a blanket. Exercise is best taken twice a day, dividing the work so that no great amount of fatigue is felt at any time. The exercise should begin gradually and be increased as the young man shows that he can stand it; but he should be careful not to overdo. If it is impossible to exercise twice a day, a rub-down should be given just after arising in the morning, if the exercise is taken in the afternoon, and just before going to bed at night if the practice ride is taken in the forenoon. Careful attention to this work will do more than anything else to develop the muscles.

SWELL BICYCLE RIG.

A St. Louis Girl Tells How Women Should Look When Wearing a Full Outing Costume.

Miss Hallie Clemson is a young woman of St. Louis who has won renown as a bicyclist. She has opinions, not only on the proper dress for the wheeling woman, but on the fashionable. She waves scornfully away all London, Paris and New York "advice," and announces that the "stylish" bicyclist of 1898 will dress as follows:

"Short, natty, divided skirt of black serge, with a short fitted jacket of white cloth, red vest, high-heeled shoes, golf stockings, ball collar, large, flowing necktie, and a plain Fedora hat."

If Miss Clemson were right, what a picture the city boulevards would present!

She gives the cost—the cost to the poor girl, the cost to the rich. The figures are presented with the costume itself. The cheapest outfit she proves to her own satisfaction may be had for \$14.90, the dearest for \$72. And at that latter figure the girl who pays \$60 for her tailor-made skirt and coat begins to doubt the veraciousness of Miss Clemson's fashion prophecies. As may be seen in the accompanying sketch, the comparative prices of clothes shows a wide divergence from preconceived notions of extravagance and economy.

A Good Idea from Paris. Bicycle oiling has become a profitable industry in and around Paris. The "graisseurs pour bicyclettes," as they are called, are, more correctly speaking, oilers, and usually stop themselves at the bottoms of hills. When a bicyclist approaches they offer to oil his machine before he makes the ascent up one of the slopes—at Surannes or St. Cloud, for instance. They are also dotted along the level roads, ready for custom, and contrive to earn a fair share of money by the end of the day. The oilers are chiefly elderly men, but not a few lazy youths have joined their ranks, and compete with them in a petty industry which is sometimes lucrative.

Size of the Human Heart. The human heart is six inches in length, four inches in diameter, and beats on an average 70 times a minute.

GUNS ON TRICYCLES.

New Device for the Handling of Light Artillery in the Good Roads Countries of Europe.

One of the latest devices in the way of light artillery is the tricycle gun, which is nothing more nor less than two Maxim or Gatling rapid-fire guns mounted on a tricycle, and propelled and operated by two artillerymen. In a country of good roads it is a terribly effective weapon, being easily transported to various points. The complete outfit, consisting of the two guns, the cycle, mounting tripod, extra parts, and 1,000 rounds of ammunition, weighs 288 pounds. Allowing 160 pounds each as the weight of the artillerymen we have a total of 608 pounds. This makes a pretty stiff load for two men to propel, but on good roads they move the machine along at a speed of fully ten miles an hour. In the climbing of hills the tricycle becomes a hand carriage and is dragged or pushed up the inclines.



TRICYCLE GUN ON THE ROAD.

There are many advantages in the mounting of the guns in this way, principal among which are the saving of horseflesh and a freedom from the expense and annoyance of feeding and caring for horses or mules in time of action.

With the improvements now being made in electric and other motors it is expected that the transportation of this class of light artillery will soon be reduced to a science, in which even the man-propelled tricycle will be discarded.

The rapid-fire gun is now being made in many forms, ranging from the monster six-inch affair used on battle-ships and cruisers, down to an apparatus which can be carried by foot soldiers. There is one size which cavalrymen can carry, strapped across the rear of their saddles, and there is a larger size for the handling of which the services of two mules are necessary.

EUROPE'S NOBILITY.

Men and Women of Title Take an Intense Interest in Cycling Affairs and Cycling Literature.

It is astonishing how great an attraction the bicycle has for women of the English nobility. Not only do they ride and take an interest in cycling affairs, but many of them have actually been inspired to write about the pastime. Among these may be mentioned the countess of Malmesbury, who has written on cycling etiquette; Lady Fairlie-Cunningham, who writes in a light, airy vein about the pastime; Lady Haberton, an authority on dress; Lady Mabel Hamilton, whose work is thoroughly practical, and Hon. Coralie Glyn. Lady Henry Somerset and Lady Cook are also cycling scribes, and both write upon the moral benefits of the wheel. The first royal personages who adopted bicycling as their favorite sport were the prince and princess of Denmark, and soon there was a party of ten or twelve royal personages to be seen enjoying their runs over the beautiful roads in the neighborhood of Copenhagen. Later, when the yearly family gathering at Copenhagen took place, the Danish royalties induced their relatives to learn to ride, and among the first to adopt the sport were the children of the king and queen of Greece and the present emperor of Russia, who has ever since his first lesson been a devoted adherent to wheeling.

Fashion in Handlebars. Dealers in bicycles have found that there is a demand among bicyclists this season for narrow handlebars, and a corresponding decrease for the ram's horn or drop bars. The reason assigned for this change is that a wheel can be more perfectly controlled when the distance between the grips is less, and it is not so tiresome on the arms, as they rest nearer to the body and in a more natural position. The leverage on the steering-post is not so great, however, as with the wider bars. A dealer, in speaking of the change, said he thought the growing tendency for narrow handlebars was a step in the right direction, and would in the end result in riders generally maintaining a correct carriage and proper position, and eventually do away with the bent back style of riding.

Some Smart Cycling Hose. Cycling hose this year are smarter than ever before. In the first place, the body of the stocking must be plain in color for the swell bicyclist, but the turnover may display plaids or stripes in gay colors and still be in good taste. The handsomest are of plain heavy black and blue silk with turned over tops in red and gold stripes. In a beautiful quality of lisle thread these designs also appear. The black wool hose have tops of brilliant plaid. Some of these wool hose are footless.

Why He Enthusiast. Quiet man (on first night of new piece)—Excuse me, sir, but I don't see any occasion for such violent applause. Demonstrative Neighbor—I do, my friend. The author is one of my wife's boarders, and he's now over two months behind with his bill.—Tit-Bits.

ABOUT HARVESTING.

Doing the Work Systematically and in Good Season Are Two Very Important Items.

In securing the best results with all crops, especially with small grains and hay, harvesting in good season is an important item.

It is best, so far as can be done, to have everything in readiness, so that the work can be pushed along as rapidly as possible when the various crops have reached the proper stage of maturity. A little delay in getting ready when the crop has reached the proper stage will often materially affect the quality of the product. There is no part of farm work more important to do just at the right time than the harvesting.

One advantage of growing a variety of products is that the harvest is extended over a longer season, affording in this way a better opportunity for harvesting each in its proper season. And where a considerable acreage is devoted to one crop, even grass, it is often best to have two or three varieties in order to lengthen the harvest season.

Orchard grass is usually the first crop to mature for harvesting. Then come red clover, wheat, timothy, mammoth clover, oats, and, lastly, red top. Many farmers, however, grow only red clover, wheat, oats and timothy, and this, of course, shortens up the harvest season. With all grasses and clover cut for hay, the best season for commencing to harvest is as soon as the plants have reached full growth, and the nearer the work can be done to this season the better the quality of the hay.

As the seed forms, more or less of the hay is converted into woody fiber, and this means loss of nutriment, and makes a hay that is not so well relished by the stock as if cut in good season. It is an item in making hay of the best quality not to cure it too much. Two hours' exposure to a very hot sun or three or four hours when not so hot is sufficient; with clover the better part of the curing should be done in the cock.

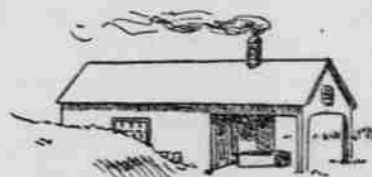
With good haying weather, two or three hours' exposure is all that is necessary to cure with grasses. Curing too much not only causes a loss of nutriment, but makes the plants so brittle that in handling there is an increased waste.

Wheat should be cut as soon as the grains begin to harden. If cut too early, before the grain has reached full development, it will often shrivel up in curing. If allowed to become too ripe, there will be loss in handling, while the quality of the grain will be lowered. When oats are to be fed in the straw, without threshing, earlier cutting is advisable than when they are to be threshed. Cut when the grain is fully formed and the stems begin to turn yellow; the straw contains more nutriment than if allowed to ripen more fully.—St. Louis Republic.

CONVENIENT BUILDING.

It Serves So Many Useful Purposes That It Can Be Used to Advantage the Year Around.

The cut shows a building constructed upon a bank, that will prove convenient for several uses. In winter the room in the bank is used for the storage of



VARIOUS PURPOSE BUILDING.

roots and other stock foods, while outside is a set boiler for cooking the same for hogs, poultry, etc. In this open shed water can also be heated and hogs dressed, a hoisting arrangement being provided overhead. During the hot months of summer the bank room is thoroughly cleaned and used as a milk room, the open shed outside being used as a shady place for churning and working the butter. The building will thus be found exceedingly convenient all the year around.—American Agriculturist.

ALL AROUND THE FARM.

We know a man who has broken implements enough in cultivating stumpy ground to buy two stump pullers.

Somebody calls attention to the fact that crooked furrows make more distance in plowing. It is a little thing, but the little things count.

We saw the other day a large herd of cattle on a newly-started pasture, on wet ground. Bad management both for the cattle and the pasture.

It is a good deal cheaper to prevent disease in stock than it is to cure it, and to prevent the attacks of insects than it is to remedy their depredations.

We have seen men plow right through a spot of quicksand, miring the team, straining it and endangering the harness. It is foolish. Take time to go round the worthless spot.

It is not what our fathers did, but what we are doing that counts. A good many do not have the respect for our fathers that we do, and have adopted better methods, and we are being beaten in the race.—Western Plowman.

Muscle Governed by Brain. Although no vocation is all pleasure or all profit, the men who conduct the business of farming with the same energy and skill as the successful merchant or professional man will reap the same, and, as a rule, a greater and more certain measure of reward; the time has passed, however, if it ever existed, when fortunes were made by unskilled owners of farms, large or small, anywhere. Convincing proof of either proposition can be found in almost any one of the 105 counties of Kansas.

Muscle, to win, must be lubricated with brains.—F. D. Coburn, in National Stockman.

Procure a Set of Tools. It is to the interest of the farmer to have a set of tools always on hand, such as saws, chisels, planes, hatchets, hammers, etc., and several sizes of nails, spikes and bolts. A small tool house should be built, or a space partitioned off in the barn, if it is large enough, for the exclusive use of the man who must do repairs to machinery, fences, gates, etc., during the busy season. Such an investment will pay the owner many times over.—Dakota Field and Farm.